

Amendments to the Claims

1-23 (canceled).

24 (original). An extruded foam prepared according to the process of claim 28 of a ~~polylactic acid resin having lactic acid repeating units that are a mixture of L- and D-~~ enantiomers, wherein the ~~mixture of L- and D-~~ enantiomers includes at least 4% of each ~~enantiomer, and~~ wherein the foam has a crystallinity of about 13-24 J/g ~~at least 10 J/g~~, as measured by differential scanning calorimetry.

25-26 (canceled).

27 (new). A process that comprises forming a pressurized, molten mixture of a melt-processable polylactide resin containing about 5 to about 15% by weight, based on the weight of the polylactide resin, of carbon dioxide, and extruding the molten mixture at an extrusion temperature through a die to a region of reduced pressure such that the carbon dioxide expands and the polylactide resin simultaneously cools to form a stable foam having at least 70% closed cells, wherein the polylactide resin contains at least 80% by weight polymerized lactic acid units.

28 (new). The process of claim 27, comprising the further step of heat treating the foam to induce crystallinity.

29 (new). The process of claim 28, wherein the polylactide resin contains a mixture of L- and D- enantiomers and the mixture of L- and D- enantiomers includes from about 85-96% by weight of one enantiomer and about 4-15% by weight of the other enantiomer.

30 (new). The process of claim 27, wherein the pressurized, molten mixture contains 7-11% by weight by weight CO₂, based on the weight of the polylactide resin in the mixture.

31 (new). The process of claim 27, wherein the extrusion temperature is from about 70 to about 140°C.

32 (new). The process of claim 27 wherein the PLA resin contains long-chain branching.